

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



City of Greensboro Field Operations Department

336-373-CITY (2489)
www.TeamRecycle.org

Summer 2006



Greensboro creates new department



Sheldon Smith is the new Solid Waste Collection Division Manager.

The Field Operations Department is the City's newest department, created March 1, 2006. Field Operations combines the City's solid waste and public maintenance resources to provide greater flexibility and to enhance the delivery of these services to the public.

The new department was created by pooling the resources of the mowing crews from the Parks & Recreation Department, the solid waste collection crews from the Environmental Services Department, and the street maintenance and right-of-way maintenance crews from the Transportation

Department. The Field Operations Department consolidates and streamlines these services.

The interim director for the new department is Dale Wyrick, who formerly served as the manager of the City's Transportation Operations Division. Sheldon Smith is the new Solid Waste Collection Division Manager.

The Environmental Services Department continues to exist and will be responsible for air quality issues, household hazardous waste, and solid waste disposal functions, such as operating the landfill and

the transfer station which is still under construction.

Regardless of the changes, one convenient phone number can be used for all of your service needs. Just call 373-CITY (373-2489).

Did you know? Last year, the City of Greensboro made over \$1 million in revenues from the sale of recyclables. This revenue helps offset collection and processing costs.

10 things you need to know about curbside recycling

Curbside recycling is simple. Just remember to follow these guidelines.

1. **Plastic bottles and jugs** are the only plastics accepted in the Greensboro recycling program. On the bottom of the bottle or jug, you should see a #1 or a #2 inside the chasing-arrows recycling symbol. We do not accept round plastic containers, such as yogurt or margarine tubs, plastic bags, toys, bowls, cups, plastic wrap, etc. The items **must be shaped like a bottle or jug to be accepted in the recycling program.** "Funny-shaped" bottles, such as detergent and shampoo bottles, are accepted.
2. **Aluminum cans** are the only form of aluminum accepted in the Greensboro recycling program. Aluminum foil and pie pans are not accepted.
3. **Newspaper** that is dry and free from food, paint, or dirt residue may be recycled.



4. If there is a substantial amount of newspaper, please bundle it.
5. **Magazines and catalogs** that are dry are accepted. If there is a substantial amount, it is best to bundle them.
6. **Paper** that is dry and free from food, paint, or dirt residue may be recycled. *Shredded paper should be placed in a paper bag before being placed in your recycling can.* Ask for a paper bag the next time you are at the grocery store.
7. **Cardboard** that is unwaxed and uncoated may be recycled. Examples are laundry detergent boxes, furniture and appliance boxes, and shipping boxes. *Do not recycle your pizza boxes or any cardboard which may have food particles and/or grease on it.* Boxes that have a wax coating, like snack cake or doughnut boxes, are not accepted.
8. **Chipboard** or paperboard with a grayish or brownish color on the inside may be recycled. Examples are cake mix, cereal, and cracker boxes, as well as the brownish/gray egg cartons. All chipboard must be clean, dry, and free from any food particles, grease, or dirt. The bag liner often found inside these boxes should be placed in the trash.
9. **Steel cans** that usually contain vegetables, fruit, fruit juices, and pet foods are accepted. The cans should be dry and free from any food particles, and the lid should be removed and thrown away.

Because recyclables are sorted by hand at the material reclamation facility (MRF), sharp lids are a safety hazard to the employees. There is no need to remove paper labels.

9. **Glass food and beverage containers** are accepted from residential customers but not from commercial customers. Items must be dry and free from any food particles or liquid. Vases, bowls, mirrors, and other types of glass are *not* acceptable. There is no need to remove labels. However, lids should be removed and thrown in the trash.
10. **Aerosol cans**, such as those that contained hairspray, deodorant, and household cleaning solutions, are recyclable only if they **are completely empty.** Remove and discard the spray nozzle before placing the can in the recycling container.

If you are not sure whether something can be recycled, remember: *When in doubt, throw it out!* Incorrect items in the recycling bin are costly to remove.



Tour the recycling center! Tours are available to groups of various sizes and all ages. Presentations are tailored to fit your group's needs and can be as short as 15 minutes or as long as an hour. Most presentations are scheduled Tuesday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., but other times can be arranged. For details, call 373-CITY (2489).



Commercial Dumpster Recycling accepts the same items as the residential program—with the EXCEPTION of glass. No collection fee is charged, but the business must provide its own dumpster. Call Commercial Sales Representatives Jessica Ridge and Mike Greene at (336) 335-5444.

Drop-Off Centers

The following recycling drop-offs are all located in parking lots. They are unmanned and accessible 24 hours a day. They accept all of the same items as the residential curbside program.

- **Fire Station #7** — 1064 Gatewood Avenue, at the corner of East Wendover at Gatewood Avenue
- **Fire Station #14** — 3633 Summit Avenue, next door to Sanctuary Deliverance Church
- **Fire Station #19** — 6900 Downwind Road, near the intersection of West Friendly and West Market, in the rear parking lot near the fuel pumps
- **Jaycee Park** — 3110 Forest Lawn Drive, off Pisgah Church Road, in the parking lot across from Stoner White Stadium
- **Windsor Community Center** — 1601 East Lee Street, located at the intersection of East Lee Street and South Benbow Road, in the rear parking lot
- **Grimsley High School** — 801 Westover Terrace — Use driveway entrance across from Westover Terrace and Whilden Place.
- **Smith High School** — 2407 South Holden Road — Use driveway entrance on South Holden Road across from Stonestrow Apartments; dumpster is near the bus parking lot.
- **Lindley Elementary School** — 2700 Camden Road, located at the intersection of Northridge Street and Camden Road — Use the driveway entrance to faculty's parking lot off Camden Road.
- **Guilford County Cooperative Extension Services** — 3309 Burlington Road — Use second driveway entrance; dumpster is in the parking lot at the rear of building.

10 TIPS for a Healthier Home

The chemicals that you use in and around your home affect your budget, your indoor air quality, your family’s safety, and our hazardous waste disposal programs. As you clean, maintain, and improve your home, think about the air you breathe and the water we share.

1. Read the labels on household cleaners and garden chemicals. Look for “signal words.” Signal words tell you how hazardous the product is to humans. Here’s what you need to know: “Poison” means highly toxic. “Danger” specifies that the product is extremely flammable, corrosive, or toxic. “Warning” indicates a moderate hazard. “Caution” denotes a mild to moderate hazard. Seek products with the “lowest” signal word, *caution* or *warning*.
2. Buy only the amount you need! Know how much product it will take to do the job and only buy that amount. It is better to make a second trip to the store than to have to dispose of large quantities of a hazardous chemical at a special collection.
3. Follow instructions on all chemicals carefully. When you are required to mix a chemical with water, don’t guess or dump. Measure the amounts as directed. Dedicate a set of measuring spoons and a measuring cup to use with household or garden chemicals. Be sure to triple-rinse (flush three times with water) your measuring spoons or cups between uses.
4. Store chemicals safely. Children and pets can be easily poisoned or injured by improperly stored chemicals. Be sure to keep all chemicals away from sources of heat, including sun shining into a garage or shed window. The same goes for rags!
5. Consider “home remedies.” For

instance, cooking oil is useful to remove adhesive price tags from jars, mugs, and dishes. Vinegar, baking soda, and soap can be effective cleaning agents. For “recipes,” look for books about “natural cleaning” at the library or search for “Recipes for Natural Cleaners” on the Internet.



6. When you paint, choose latex. Latex is water-based for easier cleanup. Better yet, choose latex without volatile organic compounds (VOCs). VOCs contribute to the formation of indoor and outdoor air pollution. If you have questions about proper disposal of unneeded latex paint, call us.
7. Weed; don’t spray. In addition to reducing your use of pesticides and eliminating hazardous waste, you’ll also be improving your muscles and enjoying the fresh air.
8. When it is time to replace your light bulbs, choose compact fluorescents. They use less energy and last much longer, creating less waste. (Compact fluorescents do contain mercury. So they do require special disposal as hazardous waste when they burn out. Call us for details.)
9. Purchase paper products, such as toilet paper, made from recycled paper. (If you buy paper napkins or paper towels, look for recycled-content paper in those, too!)
10. Check out library and Internet resources. Learn some quick and easy steps to a healthier home.

Go back to school without breaking the bank!

Whether you’re getting ready for school yourself, getting someone else ready for school, or just taking care of your own end-of-summer shopping, there are ways that you can reduce your waste, improve our environment, and save money, too.

- Plan ahead and make a list. Check to see what you have on hand. After that, make a list of what you really need.
- Reuse what you already own. Check closets for forgotten tote bags, backpacks, lunch boxes, and refillable containers. Go through last year’s supplies to find the basics: scissors, rulers, binders, etc. Many items can be reused from year to year. Remember—reusing your own stuff is also less stressful than hitting the stores.
 - When you do go shopping, browse reused first. Look for used clothes, shoes, appliances, books, toys, games,



Billboards never got so much attention! This “urban bag for the road,” by Vy & Elle, was fashioned from reclaimed billboard vinyl.

office supplies, and household goods through online services such as www.freecycle.org, at garage sales, or at resale shops.

- Buy recycled by picking up recycled-content paper, pens, pencils, scissors, rulers, file folders, binders, storage containers, and jewelry.
- Purchase refilled or remanufactured ink jet cartridges for your printers. Or, buy a refilling kit and do it yourself.
- Pick up a cool recycled accessory, such as a bag or purse made from a reused vinyl billboard. Look for hip new sustainable products at www.sustainablestyle.org.

Worth Noting

A plastic cup that will biodegrade in a food waste compost pile? Yes, some exist and more are in development. Research continues on how to make crops such as corn into biodegradable plastic and how best to compost this plastic, which is known as PLA (polylactic acid).

Biodegradable plastics offer two advantages. First, they are made from renewable resources, instead of non-renewable petroleum resources. Second, they are well-suited to food-contact applications where composting is a better option than recycling, such as single-use drink cups, carry-out food containers, and disposable eating utensils.

The Biodegradable Products Institute tests biobased plastics and certifies those that “have been scientifically proven to biodegrade and compost satisfactorily in municipal and commercial composting operations.” The products that meet these criteria receive the Institute’s approval to use the “Compostable Logo.”

Seeing the “Compostable Logo” does NOT guarantee that the item will compost in your backyard bin or that it is accepted by local composting programs. Just as not all items that carry the “recyclable” logo are locally recyclable, biodegradable plastics may not be either. Always check with your hauler or composter before adding a new item!

For more information, visit the Biodegradable Products Institute website, www.bpiworld.org.



These “leading ladies” from Biocorp sported biodegradable plastic evening gowns at a Hollywood event. (Photo Courtesy of Biocorp, www.biocorpaavc.com)

QUOTES REQUOTED

To waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.

Theodore Roosevelt 1858-1919

Cleaning up the Gulf Coast

Late last summer, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita hit the Gulf Coast with a one-two punch. In their wake, were 300,000 displaced Americans and 75 million cubic yards of waste. This debris, the equivalent of 30 years worth of waste in the Gulf Coast region, included about 350,000 flooded vehicles and at least 25 million cubic yards of green waste (tree limbs, trunks, leaves, and dead bushes).

Much of this debris will be landfilled. However, the automobiles and white goods (large appliances) will be recycled in large numbers. After the first six months of cleanup, about 280,000 tons of steel had already been recycled. Meanwhile, smaller scale efforts are gathering plumbing fixtures, cypress wood, and doors, which will be reusable.

Of particular concern during cleanup is the huge quantity of hazardous waste “orphaned” by the storm, including household hazardous waste. By February, 2 million containers of hazardous waste, a total of more than 10 million pounds, had been collected. Of these, 1.9 million were small containers, many of which were flood-damaged household hazardous materials collected by crews going house to house or dropped off at collection centers by residents.

Preparing your home and family for potential disasters helps minimize waste. For details, visit www.ready.gov.



Chris Jordan photographed this “Remains of a Business, St. Bernard Parish” while working on his upcoming book, *In Katrina’s Wake: Portraits of Loss from an Unnatural Disaster*. (Photo courtesy of Chris Jordan, www.chrisjordan.com)

During hurricane cleanup, this Louisiana site was set up to handle the massive quantity of household hazardous waste. Some of this material was found inside houses, garages, and sheds, but a great deal was recovered from swamps, waterways, and other outdoor areas.



Healthy Home Resources

Center for a New American Dream
www.newdream.org/clean

Debra Lynn Dadd, “The Queen of Green”
www.debraslist.com/

Earth Easy’s Guide to Living at Home with the Earth
www.eartheasy.com/live_menu.htm

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s “Do’s and Don’ts Around the Home”
www.epa.gov/owow/nps/dosdont.html

Green Seal
www.greenseal.org

LivingHome, an online magazine
<http://library.livinghome.com/Cool-Tools/>

Project Laundry List
www.laundrylist.org

The Seventh Generation “Guide to a Toxin-Free Home”
www.seventhgeneration.com/living_green/toxin_free.php

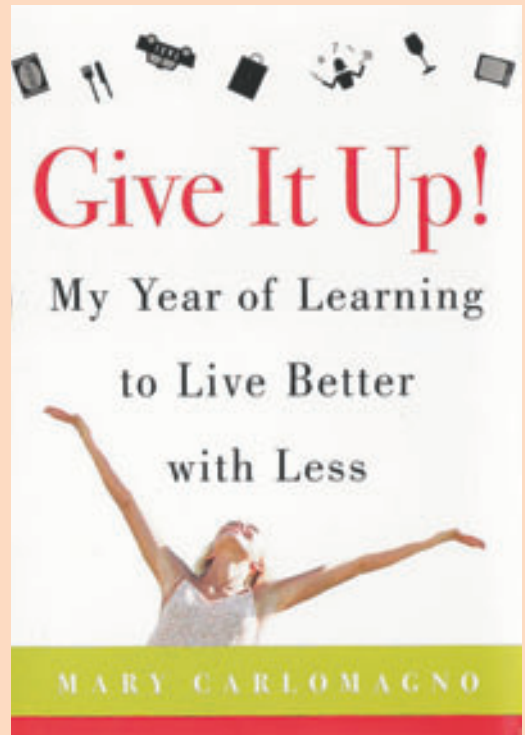
Better Basics for the Home: Simple Solutions for Less Toxic Living
By Annie Berthold-Bond, Three Rivers Press, 1999

Naturally Clean: The Seventh Generation Guide to Safe & Healthy, Non-Toxic Cleaning
By Jeffrey Hollender, Geoff Davis, Meika Hollender, New Society Publishers, 2006

What could you live without?

When I set out to write this book, my intention was to eliminate unnecessary facets of life, in essence to determine what I could live without.

Mary Carlomagno
“Introduction,” *Give It Up!*



What could you live without? After being hit on the head by boxes of shoes falling from her overfilled closet shelves, author Mary Carlomagno set out to answer this question.

Each month for a year, she gave up something that she valued—something whose sacrifice created for her “a personal and significant ‘ouch’ factor.” Her choices were personal—coffee, reading the newspaper, television, eating out. But the lessons she learned can teach us some things about our own wants and needs.

During the summer, you may take some time off or you may have a different routine. Use some of this time to think about what you could live without. What possessions do you value and which just create clutter? Do you have habits that cost money and create waste?

While setting out to give up something every month for a year may seem daunting, try giving up one of your favorite “wants” for a week or a month. See what you learn about yourself.

Read more about it!

Remember to look for books at the library, at book swaps, at www.freecycle.org, or at used bookstores! Then share titles with friends and relatives!

Choosing Simplicity: Real People Finding Peace and Fulfillment in a Complex World by Linda Breen Pierce (Gallagher Press, 2000)

Give It Up!: My Year of Learning to Live Better with Less by Mary Carlomagno (William Morrow, 2006)

Living Simply with Children: A Voluntary Simplicity Guide for Moms, Dads, and Kids Who Want to Reclaim the Bliss of Childhood and the Joy of Parenting by Marie Sherlock (Three Rivers Press, 2003)

Simplicity Lessons: A 12-Step Guide to Living Simply by Linda Breen Pierce (Gallagher Press, 2003)

Voluntary Simplicity: Toward a Way of Life That Is Outwardly Simple, Inwardly Rich by Duane Elgin (Revised Edition, Harper Paperbacks, 1998)

What Kids Really Want that Money Can’t Buy: Tips for Parenting in a Commercial World by Betsy Taylor (Warner Books, 2003)



The **City of Greensboro Contact Center** makes it fast and easy for you to find answers to your questions and help with concerns about City services. One call to 373-CITY (2489), and you are connected to a City Services Representative—not a recording—who can provide you with the information you need. Call for information on starting refuse service, missed collections, holiday schedules, scheduling an appliance collection, pothole repairs, and all your City government needs. *Se habla español.*

Call anytime, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. When calling after hours, you may leave a message and a City Services Representative will handle your request the next business day. Prefer e-mail? Send your request to cogcontactctr@Greensboro-NC.gov.



The City's **2006 Earth Day celebration** on April 1 attracted more than 2,000 people to the Kathleen Clay Edwards Family Branch Library in Price Park. To kick off the event, Mayor Keith Holliday spoke about the importance of protecting the environment. The celebration included 35 exhibitors, arts and crafts, guided hikes, hay rides, garden tours, electric vehicle test drives, and entertainment. Sustainable prizes were awarded to families who brought their own litter-free picnic lunches.



A **Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)** collection day, held March 31, netted nearly 100,000 pounds of electronics, paint, oil, batteries, pesticides, and more. The event was co-sponsored by the City's Environmental Services Department, Guilford County, and the Guilford County Cooperative Extension Service. The City also runs a permanent HHW and E-Waste collection center at ECOFLO, Inc., 2750 Patterson Street, Greensboro. Hours of operation are Wednesday through Friday, 10 am to 6 pm, and Saturday, 8 am to 2 pm. Call 373-2196 for more information on HHW.

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

Field Operations Department

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Greensboro, NC 27402-3136

336-373-CITY (2489)

cogcontactctr@Greensboro-NC.gov

www.TeamRecycle.org

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**70% POST-CONSUMER NEWS
CONTENT, USING SOY INKS**

*Please recycle this publication
after you have read it!*

Collection reminders

The 7-7-7 Rule

- No cans on the curb **before 7 pm** on the night before your service day.
- All cans must be at the curb **by 7 am** on your collection day.
- Cans must be off the curb **by 7 pm** on your service day.

The 2-2-2 Rule

Bulk materials should never be **too** heavy for **two** people **to** lift.

Holiday Collection Schedule

During holiday weeks, your normal garbage and recycling collection day may change. The Field Operations Department does not always follow the same closure schedule as City Hall. Collections occur on some days when other departments may be closed.



Remember to follow the 2-2-2 Rule!

Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4

Tuesday collection on Wednesday, July 5

Labor Day, Monday, September 4

Monday collection on Tuesday,

September 5

Tuesday collection on Wednesday,

September 6

Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23

Thursday collection on Wednesday,

November 22

Friday is a regular collection day, but other City offices will be closed.

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

Monday collection on Tuesday,

December 26

Tuesday collection on Wednesday,

December 27

Recycling Containers

In most of the City, residents receive recycling collection through the use of City-provided 90-gallon, brown, roll-out cans. The downtown business district and a limited number of residential locations use City-issued green plastic recycling bags instead of the brown cans. All recyclable items may be mixed together in the recycling can or green bag. Separation is not required. Recyclables should be dry and free of food particles and liquids.

Saving Money: Recycling IS Your Business

Does your business recycle? Recycling can have a major impact on the money that flows out of your business. By reducing what goes into your trash bin, you save money on waste disposal. Businesses pay for trash collection based on the size of the dumpster that they use

and frequency of service. Reduce the amount of waste in the trash, and you can reduce your trash bill.

In the past, recycling has been something that only the environmentally conscious were interested in. Now, while it's still the right thing to do, it also has a

major impact on the financial aspects of your organization as well as in the community that your organization calls home.

Businesses in Greensboro are invited to take part in the **FREE** Team Recycle Program. Fill your dumpster with recyclable items from our list and we will service it up to four times per week at no charge. Every item diverted from the landfill can add up to huge savings for your business.

For more information on this **FREE** program, call the Commercial Helpline at 335-5444.

Yard Waste: Can, Bag or Bundle It

Weekly curbside yard waste collection is provided to all residents that receive weekly refuse collection. Do not place yard waste in your brown or green roll-out can. Doing so may result in service denial. Loose or improperly prepared yard waste will not be collected. To properly prepare yard waste, please use one of the following methods:

Can It

Use your own metal or plastic trash can, no larger than 32 gallons. Your can should have handles and a lid. Irregularly shaped containers may not be serviced. Filled cans should weigh no more than 50

pounds. If you were to place a lid on the can, all materials should be contained inside. Long branches protruding from the container may result in service denial.

Bag It

Use only heavy-duty, clear plastic bags. Using black plastic bags, paper bags, and green recycling bags will result in non-collection. Filled bags must weigh less than 50 pounds.

Bundle It

Tie yard waste in bundles not more than five feet long and no heavier than 50 pounds.



Be Can Smart!

Most homes in Greensboro have City-provided green roll-out cans for refuse collection. These roll-out cans are serviced by trucks that have a mechanical arm for lifting and dumping the can. Automated waste collection has several advantages. One driver can do the same work as the conventional rear loader vehicle that uses a driver and two collectors. This helps to keep staffing levels low, increases productivity, and reduces job-related injuries.

The automated truck lifts the cans several feet off the ground. It's important that your refuse be placed in bags before being put into the can. Otherwise, there may be a litter problem when your can is emptied.

Please do not overstuff your can. If your container is over-packed and the lid does not close, litter may spill into the street when the can is lifted. If the waste

inside is too tightly packed, it's also possible that your can will not be completely emptied.

Automated trucks need a much larger clearing radius than other vehicles. Basketball goals, automobiles, and other possible obstructions should not be in the street on your collection day. Your can should not be placed next to the mailbox or under low tree limbs or telephone wires. Remember—there is only one operator for the truck and he does not have any help in backing the vehicle or maneuvering around obstructions. Please help us avoid accidents by being careful where you put your can.

